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W. MARTIN JAMES

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To Christopher William Martin James
and Gregory Bennett James—
long may you run.

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INTRODUCTION

To adequately study Angola, a good working knowledge of Portuguese is required. However, since the Historical Dictionary Series is primarily meant for English-speakers, only major works in Portuguese or other languages have been included. Also, the reader should consult the previous editions of the *Historical Dictionary of Angola*, by Phyllis Martin and by Susan Herlin Broadhead, which include strong bibliography sections. This bibliography includes newer works, especially ones written after 1990.

The World Wide Web has changed the nature of research. Private sources, newspapers, journals, organizations, individuals, and more can all be found on the web. Most of the web content is valuable to a researcher, though some bogus information can also be encountered. Typing "Angola" into one search engine retrieved 5,490,000 entries. The sites for the Hoover Institute and the African Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania contain excellent information. The last section of this bibliography includes some of the more prominent Angolan web sites with addresses.

Libraries will include the searchable databases of ABI/Informal Global, Books in Print with Reviews, Digital Library Search, Ebsco Host, Factsdotcom, First Search, Lexis-Nexis, ProquestDirect, and Databases on CD-ROM.

Still, hard-copy research must be done. The archives of the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Boston Globe* can be found in major libraries or on the web. Nationally known newspapers and journals on Africa will include articles about Angola. African journals are archived, and the diligent researcher can locate information.

Writings on the early history of Angola were by Portuguese or other non-Angolan writers. The Portuguese wrote mainly from their perspective, paying scant attention to ethnic groups or local historical events. Angolans have relied upon oral history passed from generation to generation. Consequently, very little of Angola's past has been written by Angolans. With the end of the civil war, Angolan scholars will begin to explore all eras of their history.

Angola's civil war played a major role in the Cold War. There are innumerable works on various aspects of the conflict penned from every perspective. Many of the books and articles of the past 30 years focus exclusively on the war. With the war over, there is a flood of nongovernmental organization (NGO) reports on the devastation caused by the 27-year conflict.

The Angolan government has moved from socialism to democracy. There has been a gradual easing of the stringent rules governing the press. It is fair to assume that, once basic services such as housing, electricity, sanitation, food, health care, and, especially, education are restored, Angola will experience an increase in literacy and research dealing with all aspects of its heritage.

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